

July 2, 2020
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a special session, with Commissioner Bob Bush, Commissioner Ron Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and County Clerk Donna Patton present. Chairman Ron Sellers was in attendance via phone.

Mr. O'Sullivan explained Governor's Order 20-52 to the Board and asked them to consider a local resolution that provides a less restrictive approach. Mr. O'Sullivan went over the explanations for people, businesses, and exemptions. He stated that the order does not restrict local government from imposing a less restrictive order.

Commissioner Sellers commented that he read the Governor's Order and received a lot of emails for and against mandating masks.

Mr. O'Sullivan explained Resolution 20-17 that was written with the Board's directive and is less restrictive than the Governor's Order. In order to be less restrictive, certain findings were made. After consulting with Health Department Director/Health Officer Nick Baldetti, it was determined that mask use can prohibit the spread of COVID-19 and is highly encouraged and recommended by the Board. The resolution states that it is ordered by the Board to be less restrictive to not mandate the wearing of masks but is highly encouraged and recommended. The resolution is to remain in effect until it expires or is amended. The resolution can be amended to be more restrictive if needed.

Mr. Baldetti stated that mask wearing is scientifically proven to slow the spread of COVID-19 along with hand washing and social distancing. He reminded the Board that we wear masks to protect those around us and protects the whole not just us. He also strongly encouraged the public to wear masks.

Commissioner Sellers stated that while he is agreeing with the resolution to not mandate masks, he highly recommends the wearing and if we see a strong increase in numbers, he will change his vote and mandate mask wearing.

Commissioner Hirst agreed and stated that if the cases increase, he too will change his vote.

Commissioner Bush agreed with the other two commissioners and strongly supports mask wearing in the community but did not want to mandate them at this time. He also stated that if the numbers rise, he will change his vote.

Carol Peterson, 901 E 9th Ave Hutchinson, spoke about teaching special needs children and would like to see mask wearing mandated.

Mr. Baldetti stated that it is our civic responsibility to protect everyone and the Board of Health (BOCC) believes and backs this and noted that the Board didn't take this decision lightly.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve Resolution 2020-17 **AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RENO COUNTY, RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH THAT INCLUDES PROVISIONS THAT ARE LESS STRINGENT THAN THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-52 ISSUED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON JULY 2, 2020.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
dp

Date